

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

VOL. 77, No. 3

15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

DECEMBER 12, 2013

Council OKs Revised Agreement To Accommodate New FBI HQ

by Barbara Hopkins

The Greenbelt City Council approved a supplemental agreement for the North Core of Greenbelt Metro Station in order to facilitate locating the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) there as land use or development issues were the focus of most of council's regular meeting on Monday, December 9. Council also approved an ordinance to refinance bonds to cover its obligations for city retirement programs which is projected to save the city \$1.2 million.

FBI Headquarters

That Greenbelt is the primary site in Maryland for location of a new FBI headquarters has been "widely published" Mayor Emmett Jordan noted. However in order to respond to the federal General Services Administration's Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) as a site for the proposed new facility the

developers proposing a site in the Greenbelt Metro Station North Core must demonstrate that the location submitted conforms to local development requirements. Greenbelt's current agreement with A.H. Smith Greenbelt Management/Renard Development Company LLC has been amended to allocate 2.2 million square feet for a GSA facility. Housing, retail and private office spaces have been reduced. The secure FBI facility would be located on the east side of the property with private development on the west side adjacent to the Metro and CSX tracks, resulting in a mixed use, public/private development. This would be an alternative to the approved Conceptual Site Plan, meaning that the previously approved plan would remain in place if the FBI locates elsewhere.

In the revised plan, the developer is not responsible

for contributing to the Beltway interchange, as the State of Maryland has agreed to fully fund this part of the project. The developer is responsible, however, for construction of a path connecting the North Core to Cherrywood Lane. There are other changes in the new agreement to remove conditions that are no longer relevant and to allow the city to request funding for under-funded capital projects. (The agreement may be viewed and downloaded in the agenda packet from the city's website.) Total monetary contributions from the developer to the city would amount to \$2.52 million, which staff recommends be paid to the city when construction begins, without specifying individual projects for its use.

There was general support for the project, although councilmembers had some concerns about the impact on a wetland area and a desire to see "green building" methods upgraded to the more specific "LEED silver or above" level as well as the continued protection of state lands.

Councilmembers Judith Davis

See **COUNCIL**, page 6

Lions Are Busy Helping During the Holiday Season

by Stephen Waldron

Greenbelt's Lions Club might be known for helping people with vision problems but they are branching out to help the community in other ways.

The group manages several projects around this holiday season. Most recently, they ran a Breakfast with Santa event.

Families had the chance to attend a pancake breakfast at the American Legion and children were invited to have their picture taken with Santa Claus. Lions President Jordan Choper said that every year one member of the club dresses up in the red suit.

The club is also holding a toy drive, with collection boxes set up at Beltway Plaza, the Greenbelt Co-op and the local library. Club Secretary Linda Varda said that the Lions brought 800 toys to

children last year, as well as coats to families in need.

Varda also said that she will be participating in the Lions' annual gift wrap fundraiser. Starting December 13 Lions volunteers will be wrapping gifts at Beltway Plaza Mall for a fee as a Lions fundraiser. Members will be on hand to wrap gifts from noon to 8 p.m. every day except for Sunday, when they will wrap from noon to 6 p.m. According to Varda, this is a popular service and an important fundraiser for the club.

"Every Christmas Eve for the last five or six years," Varda said, "I've been at the mall until 7 wrapping presents."

Varda has worked with the Lions since 1987 but only

See **LIONS**, page 6



PHOTO BY ERIC ZHANG

Volunteering at Greenbelt Lions Club Pancake Breakfast with Santa are from left Judith Davis, Elizabeth Boles, Barry Blechman, Lynda Varda, Jordan Choper, Harvey Hauptman, Dennis Boles, Joey Hoke, Rick Jones (as Santa), Dorothy Boddie, Laurie Hortie and Tim Edwards.

American Education Week November 18 to 22, 2013

In a celebration of American education, these columns will be telling the stories of selected teachers from the schools that serve the Greenbelt community.

This week readers will get a glimpse inside Eleanor Roosevelt High School. In coming weeks we will focus on Greenbelt Middle School and Turning Point Academy.

From Kuwait to Greenbelt Is ERHS Teacher's Story

by Lamar Johnson, ERHS Student

Passion takes you places that you never imagined. Troy Bradbury, an English teacher at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), is a living testament to this notion.

He was born in Southern California and raised in Northern California. In his sophomore year of high school, he endured a drastic change when he moved to Kuwait, where his father was a contractor for the Kuwait Air Force. After graduating from high school in Kuwait,



Troy Bradbury

Bradbury moved to Ireland to study to become a professional golfer.

"I was interrupted by the invasion of Kuwait," said Bradbury. "My father was a hostage. I left [Ireland] to stay with my friends in Maryland from the United States Embassy."

Once in Maryland, Bradbury decided to attend Prince George's Community College. After community college, Bradbury enrolled at the University of

See **BRADBURY**, page 7

ERHS History Teacher Is Also Swim Coach

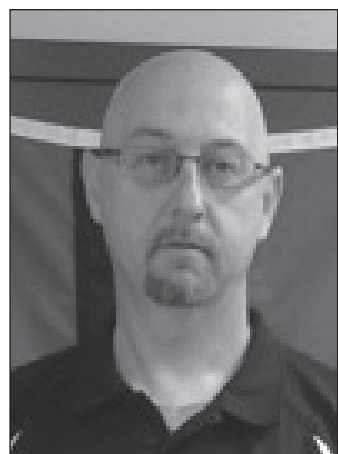
by Charif Shell, ERHS Student

At Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), the AP (Advanced Placement) world history department succeeds because of the diligence of its teachers.

One of these is 6'4" swim coach and teacher Richard Renyer.

Renyer graduated from the University of Maryland with three bachelors degrees, one in arts and economics in 1993, another in arts and history in 1998 and a third in science and education, specializing in social studies, also in 1998. He also earned a master of education in 1998.

As a young intern, Renyer got his start at ERHS in the fall of 1997. During that school year he began coaching swimming and, in the spring of 1998, officially began working as a full-time



Richard Renyer

teacher at ERHS.

Since beginning the AP World History program 15 years ago, Renyer has helped bring the program from a 12-person elective to a large four-sectioned program in which students have excelled, with an 80 percent average pass rate.

When asked about his proudest accomplishments, Renyer cited the program and the students.

"I am most proud with the overall success of world history," he said. "The most enjoyable part of my job, for the most part, is the day-to-day interaction with kids. I love kids."

Students like junior Crishaun Thomas enjoy the program and his teaching.

Thomas remarked that Renyer was "awesome."

See **RENYER**, page 7

Editorial

Our Carriers Bring Holiday Greetings

Around this time of year those who deliver the News Review traditionally leave holiday envelopes at the homes they serve. The News Review does not pay our carriers much, so your generous holiday donations and expressions of appreciation help make their jobs worthwhile.

Most carriers range in age from pre-teen to the middle teens. For the younger boys and girls, delivering the News Review is their first job experience. Many older carriers started at a young age and continue to deliver the News Review mainly as a service to their neighborhood. It is a learning process for all these youngsters and in some cases the instillation of responsibility takes time and patience.

In the past there has been confusion and also some instances of wrongdoing by non-carriers misusing old donation envelopes. Another confusion may occur to people who receive more than one paper. To resolve the problem, we now include the current year on the envelopes – please make sure the envelope has 2013 on it for your News Review carrier.

The holiday season affords all of us a chance to show appreciation and at the same time to show understanding for any failings that may have occurred during the year.

Again this year, the carriers will leave envelopes. We hope these envelopes, identified with the carriers name and address, will be helpful to you. If your carriers name or address is in doubt, mail your envelope to the News Review, 15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887 for forwarding. Please include your address so we can identify your carrier.

Free Diabetes Support Group

Doctors Community Hospital will hold a free diabetes support group on Monday, December 16 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be at 8100 Good Luck Road on the 5th floor of the North Building. To register call 301-324-4968.



Breast Cancer Support Group

On Tuesday, December 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. Doctors Community Hospital will hold a breast cancer support group for men on the 5th floor of the North Building. The group is facilitated by men whose loved ones are breast cancer survivors. Registration is required by calling 301-324-4968.

Holiday Deadlines, Schedule Changes

Last Issue before Christmas – Dated Thursday, December 19
Regular Advertising and Copy Deadline: Tuesday, December 17

Christmas Week Issue – Dated Thursday, December 26
Advertising and Copy Deadline:
SUNDAY 12/22

New Year’s Week Issue – Dated Thursday, January 2
Advertising and Copy Deadline:
SUNDAY 12/29

Holiday Office Hours:
Sunday 12/22 – 2 to 4 p.m.; 8 to 10 p.m.
(Monday 12/23 – Saturday 12/28 – CLOSED)
Sunday 12/29 – 2 to 4 p.m., 8 to 10 p.m.
(Monday 12/30 – Sunday 1/5 – CLOSED)

All articles, photos, announcements and advertisements must reach us by no later than Sunday at 10 p.m., sooner if possible. Please note that we will not be able to accept additional material for these issues after the stated deadlines.

The News Review is grateful for everyone’s help in submitting their advertisements and copy as early as possible so the special holiday schedule will work. Please call us at 301-474-4131 if there are any questions. Happy Holidays to All!



GUTTER CLEANING

Gilbert General Contractor, Inc. and Petria, Inc. have begun fall gutter cleaning and inspections.

The week of December 16-20, work will be in this approximate area:

Courts 43-47 Ridge, Courts 1-2 & 135 Northway,
Courts 2-8 Hillside, Courts 1-8 Woodland Way

During that time, workers will be on ladders around buildings. Please close your window shades to preserve privacy.

You may contact Peter Joseph at (301) 474-4161 ext. 141 if you have any questions or comments.

Letters

FPAB Chair Speaks On Article and Issue

The article in last week’s GNR [Dec. 5], “Forest Preserve Worksession Becomes Very Contentious” contained a number of inaccuracies.

The News Review reporter attended the Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB) monthly meeting (November 21). The worksession with city council was held September 30. The motion passed by FPAB was at the October 24 meeting. I, as chair of the city’s FPAB, was never contacted by the reporter regarding the issues presented for the article. Had he done so I could have provided the proper sequence of discussions and meetings held on the Ancestral Knowledge (AK) issue.

The word “ban” in the article referring to AK is incorrect. A city advisory board or committee cannot “ban” anyone or anything. Advisory boards and committees advise and recommend to council. The FPAB advises and recommends to council on policies and practices relating to the Management and Maintenance Guidelines of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve; reports to council on the health and condition of the Preserve; and reviews and makes recommendations on the guidelines and Forest Preserve section of the Greenbelt City Code.

At the October meeting the FPAB acted in an appropriate democratic fashion when a motion was presented and then openly discussed and voted on by all members. The motion was adopted by a majority of the board. The motion referenced the Forest Preserve Management and Maintenance Guidelines and Greenbelt City Code as they apply to activities

See LETTERS, page 12

OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

WEEK OF DEC 13

PHILOMENA

(PG-13)

FRIDAY

*5:15, 7:30, 9:30

SATURDAY

*3, *5:15, 7:30, 9:30

SUNDAY

*3, *5:15, 7:30

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY

*5:30, 7:30

THURSDAY

*5:30

Starts Thurs., Dec. 19

AMERICAN HUSTLE

(R)

7:30

*These shows at \$6.50

Tuesday is Bargain Day.

All Seats Only \$5.00.

Now accepting Visa, Discover and MasterCard for tickets and concessions

301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745

129 Centerway

www.pandgtheatres.com

Grin Belt



"Sorry to be late for the holiday party.
I-95 was backed up"

On Screen

Thursday Debut of American Hustle

Coming to the Old Greenbelt Theatre on Thursday, December 19, American Hustle is a zany, kinetic comedy/drama loosely based on the Abscam scandal circa 1979. It is saturated with con artists, double crosses, disco music and bad hair.

Director David O. Russell has re-gathered a stellar cast from his The Fighter and Silver Lining Playbook: Christian Bale, Amy Adams, Jennifer Lawrence, Bradley Cooper and Robert di Niro. Louis C.K. and Jeremy Renner also shine.

Rated R. Playing time 138 minutes.

– Jim Link

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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CIRCULATION Core of Greenbelt: Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624
Franklin Park: Arlene Clarke 301-474-1526

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eileen Farnham, president; Thomas X. White, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Marat Moore, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg and Sylvia Lewis

DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$45/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

Community Events

Democratic Club To Install Officers

At its December 20 meeting the Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club will install its new officers for 2014. Maryland Delegate Marvin Holmes will swear in the newly-elected at 7:30 p.m. at the Greenbriar Condominium Association Community Building.

For 2014 officers will be President Emmett Jordan, Vice Presidents Kathleen Pape, Jane Ross, Darryl Pennington and Konrad Herling, Treasurer Austin Henry, Recording Secretary Keith Bare and Corresponding Secretary Nicole Williams. J Davis will serve as historian of the 38-year-old organization; Bob Doyle will serve as chair of Membership and Lyn Doyle as chair of the Ways and Means Committee. Serving as sergeants at arms will be Rosemary Bell and Joyce Fitzgerald.

In addition, Holmes will speak about the upcoming legislative session and field questions from the audience. Business matters to be discussed will include minor bylaw changes and a small increase in annual dues.

Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition “Food and Friendship” program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m., two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215.

All meals include bread and margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for December 16 through 20 are as follows:

Monday – Orange juice, country-fried steak with country gravy, mashed potatoes, spinach, sliced peaches.

Tuesday – Apple juice, maple-glazed chicken, rice pilaf, sliced carrots, diced pears.

Wednesday – Red and Gold Senior Holiday Gala - All sites closed.

Thursday – Grape juice, potato-crust ed fish, tartar sauce, black-eyed peas, stewed tomatoes, tropical fruit.

Friday – Cranberry juice, hamburger, lettuce and tomato, ranch beans, cucumber and tomato salad, apple crisp.

At the Library

On Thursdays, a librarian reads age-appropriate stories to children and parents using imagination and props. The usual 20-person room limit applies. Pick up a free ticket from the information desk before the session.

Thursday, December 19, 10:30 a.m. Drop-in Storytime for ages 2 to 5 years mixes stories with fun activities, including songs, rhymes and fingerplays. Babies are also welcome.

Saturday, December 21, 2 p.m. Read to Rover, for ages 6 to 11. Children build their reading confidence by reading aloud to specially trained therapy dogs who are glad to listen. Each child will read for 15 minutes. Registration is required, call branch for details.

For more information call 301-345-5800, visit the Greenbelt branch library or go to the library system website at pgcmls.info to review accounts, renew materials or for other library services. For automated phone renewal call 301-333-3111.

GHI Notes

Friday, December 13, noon. Office Closed for Employee Holiday Party

Monday, December 16, 7 p.m., Member Outreach Committee Meeting – Board Room

7 p.m., Pre-purchase Orientation – Board Meeting Room

7:30 p.m., Marketing Committee Meeting – GHI Lobby

Wednesday, December 18, 7 p.m., Buildings Committee Meeting – Board Room

7 p.m., Woodlands Committee Meeting – GHI Lobby

Thursday, December 19, 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors Meeting (Open Session) – Board Room

Friday, December 20. Office Closed. For emergency maintenance call 301-474-6011.

Note: Committee and board meetings are open; members are encouraged to attend.

Alight Dance Holds Open Studio Sat.

On Saturday, December 14 from 2 to 4 p.m. Alight Dance Theater will hold a free holiday open studio of works-in-progress at the Greenbelt Community Center.

GIVES Quarterly Meeting Is Saturday

The Greenbelt Inter-generational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) will hold its quarterly meeting on Saturday, December 14 at 10 a.m., in the Greenbelt Community Center.

A short meeting will precede the holiday celebration. Members are invited to bring food or drink to share. Non-members are welcome to come to the meeting and stay to meet and talk with the group.

Members are also reminded to call in their hours of service for the last quarter if they have not already done so.

For further information call the GIVES office at 301-507-6580.

Open Microphone For Kids at Café Sun.

There will be a Kids’ Open Microphone session at the New Deal Café on Sunday, December 15 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Children up to age 17 are invited to play a musical instrument, sing, dance, juggle, recite a poem or otherwise perform. Monthly Kids’ Open Microphone sessions are held on the third Sunday of each month.

For more information call Anne Gardner at 301-220-1721 or email annegrndr@yahoo.com.



Lady Angels, SmarTime Offer Kids’ Seminars

On Saturday, December 14 at 1 p.m. the first of three free weekly enrichment seminars for school-aged children will be held at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Sponsored by the Greenbelt Lady Angels basketball team and SmarTime, the seminars will focus on different important personal skills.

The first session is on advertising, with a goal of raising the youngsters’ awareness of techniques used by advertisers to manipulate and will teach participants how to resist those manipulations. Later sessions will be on self-esteem and decision making, offered December 21 and 28 respectively.

A Greenbelt city facility, Springhill Lake Recreation Center is located at 6101 Cherrywood Lane.

Lady Angels Play Basketball Finale

Thursday, December 19 is the Greenbelt Lady Angels Basketball Team Finale. Two games are being held at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. 6:30 p.m. is the Metro City Athletic Academy vs. Springhill Lake Recreation Center Boys. At 8 p.m. the DC Lady Panthers play the Lady Angels.

All are welcome. Springhill Lake Recreation Center is located at 6101 Cherrywood Lane.



Send Holiday Greetings

The News Review will publish holiday greetings in the December 19 issue.

ACADEMY STADIUM THEATRE
6198 GREENBELT ROAD
CENTER COURT OF BELTWAY PLAZA
301-220-1155
For directions visit
www.academy8theaters.com
Most features are \$5.00
all day on Tuesdays; add \$2.00 for 3-D
R = ID Required
(I) = No passes

WEEK OF DEC 13

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Tyler Perry's: A Madea Christmas, PG-13 (I)

11, 12, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3, 4, 5, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8, 9, 10, 10:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug, in 3D, PG-13 (I)
2:55, 9:50

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug, in 2D, PG-13 (I)

11:30, 12, 3:30, 6:30, 7, 10:15
Frozen, PG

11:10, 2, 4:15, 6:55, 9:15
Hunger Games: Catching Fire, PG-13

11:45, 3:40, 7:05, 10:10
Best Man Holiday, R

11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50

SUNDAY & MONDAY

Tyler Perry's: A Madea Christmas, PG-13 (I)

11, 12, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3, 4, 5, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug, in 3D, PG-13 (I)
2:55

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug, in 2D, PG-13 (I)

11:30, 12, 3:30, 6:30, 7
Frozen, PG

11:10, 2, 4:15, 6:55
Hunger Games: Catching Fire, PG-13

11:45, 3:40, 7:05
Best Man Holiday, R

11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10

TUESDAY

Anchorman, R (I)
9 p.m.

Tyler Perry's: A Madea Christmas, PG-13 (I)

11, 12, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3, 4, 5, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8, 10, 10:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug, in 3D, PG-13 (I)
2:55, 9:50

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug, in 2D, PG-13 (I)

11:30, 12, 3:30, 6:30, 7, 10:15
Frozen, PG

11:10, 2, 4:15, 6:55, 9:15
Hunger Games: Catching Fire, PG-13

11:45, 3:40, 7:05, 10:10
Best Man Holiday, R

11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

Anchorman, R (I)
11:25, 2:10, 4:55, 7:35

Tyler Perry's: A Madea Christmas, PG-13 (I)

11, 12, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3, 4, 5, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug, in 3D, PG-13 (I)
2:55

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug, in 2D, PG-13 (I)

11:30, 12, 3:30, 6:30, 7
Frozen, PG

11:10, 2, 4:15, 6:55
Hunger Games: Catching Fire, PG-13

11:45, 3:40, 7:05

More Community Events
are located throughout the paper.

Utopia Film Festival Presents

Sun., Dec. 15 & Wed., Dec.18
8:00 PM Lucky Express
9:00 Flickering Angels

on Greenbelt Access Television, Inc.
Comcast 77 & Verizon Fios 19

**Greenbelt Arts Center**
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

**A CHRISTMAS COMIC CAROL**

A COMIC CHRISTMAS CAROL
Guest production from the Renaissance Man
Fridays and Saturdays
December 13, 14, 20, 21 - 8:00pm
Sundays, December 15, 22 – 2:00pm

Ticket prices:
\$17 General Admission,
\$14 Students/Seniors/Military,
\$12 Child (12 and under with adult)

For information & reservations,
call 301-441-8770 or email: info@greenbeltartscenter.org or
BOOK TICKETS ONLINE at www.greenbeltartscenter.org

Coming Soon
Greenbelt New Year's Eve – December 31 (TBD)
Poe's Birthday Bash – January 17–19, 2014 – guest production from the Renaissance Man
The Vagina Monologues – January 24 – February 8, 2014 – guest production from The Rude Mechanicals

Greenbelt Arts Center
123 Centerway • Greenbelt, MD 20770 • Located underneath the Greenbelt CO-OP

Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATE) Studio

15 Crescent Road, Suite 204
www.greenbelttv.org 301-507-6581

Dec. 28 Sat. 9:30-10:15
FREE Orientation and Membership

For GATE Members Only

Dec. 28, Sat. 10:30 - 1PM - FREE
ProductionAssistant Class



Greenbelt Access Television, Inc.

Dec. 19 Thurs. & Dec.23 Mon. 7-9 PM
Camra class - shot composition and hardware basics

Dec. 26, 27, 30, & 31 9:30 -4PM
Final Cut Pro X editing class-
Interface, editing, importing and exporting

Comcast 77 & Verizon Fios 19

Obituaries

Robert Mongelli

Former resident Robert “Bob” Charles Mongelli, 73, of Kill Devil Hills, N.C., died Thursday, November 28, 2013, at Chesapeake General Hospital surrounded by family and friends after a valiant and courageous battle against cancer.

Mr. Mongelli was born July 12, 1940 in Washington, D.C., the son of Charles and Mary Mongelli.

After graduation from the University of Maryland with a bachelor of science degree in business administration, he became a marketing economist with the USDA for 27 years. After retiring from the federal government, he became a substitute teacher and assistant football coach at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. In Greenbelt the Mongellis lived at 5 Court Eastway.

Mr. Mongelli moved to Kill Devil Hills, N.C., in 1995 with his wife Carol because of his love for the ocean and ultimately ended up working for Mike and Mary Fornadley of Michaels Gems and Glass, until his death.

Mr. Mongelli was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was known as a true Renaissance man with a number of hobbies and interests. He loved boating and sailing the Chesapeake Bay; was an avid runner, completing four marathons; an amateur paleontologist, collecting thousands of fossils over his lifetime; an ardent historian; and a stamp collector who actively participated in the Outer Banks Stamp Club. Although born in Washington, D.C., the Outer Banks of North Carolina was his home.

Mr. Mongelli is survived by his wife Carol and their two sons, Brian Mongelli and wife Catherine and their two children Jacob and Olivia of Ocean City; and Eric Mongelli and wife Melanie and their three children Amber, Noelle and Michael of Ashburn, Va.

Mr. Mongelli was a member of the Manteo Baptist Church, where a memorial service in his honor will be held on January 12 at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers the family welcomes donations to St Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital at <http://www.stjude.org>; the Wounded Warrior Project at <http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org>; or Manteo Baptist Church, P.O. Box 670, Manteo, NC 27954.

Arrangements are being handled by Twiford Funeral Home of Manteo, N.C. Condolences may be expressed online at www.twifordfh.com.





Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS
Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building
ALL ARE WELCOME.

Nuclear Sustainability Synagogue Program

On Sunday, December 15 at 10:30 a.m. Mishkan Torah’s Adult Education and Social Action Committees will sponsor a program on Sustainability and Nuclear Energy, to be led by member Steve Mirsky. The multi-media program will have a presentation, hands-on demonstration of nuclear radiation and two videos. The program is free and open to all.

This is the 75th anniversary of the discovery of nuclear fission. The environmental movement, historically advocating abolition of nuclear energy is seeing a paradigm shift that has many environmentalists now favoring nuclear energy as a key asset in the future energy supply. This is the premise of the recently released video “Pandora’s Promise,” shown at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival and one of the videos to be screened during Mishkan Torah’s program.

Mirsky, a former Mishkan Torah congregation president, has worked in the nuclear energy field over 37 years including at three nuclear power plants in the U.S. He is now manager of licensing for NuScale Power, an Oregon company designing a new, small, safe modular

nuclear power plant. He is a professional engineer, co-author of a patent for radiation shielding material using depleted uranium and has consulted in the field worldwide.

Mishkan Torah is at 10 Ridge Road. For more information call 240-393-2601.

Berwyn Presbyterian Handbell Concert

On Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. there will be an English handbell concert of famous Christmas carols by the Canterbury Ringers at Berwyn Presbyterian Church.

The concert is free although voluntary donations are sought to help cover the cost of the concerts held at the church.

Berwyn Presbyterian Church is at 6301 Greenbelt Road.


National Gallery Holds Free Opera Concert

On Sunday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. the National Gallery of Art will present a free concert by the New York Opera Society. This program will take place in the East Building Auditorium.




Greenbelt Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1 Hillside (at Crescent Road)
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m.
Clara Young, Interim Pastor



BERWYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. Mary Pullen - Pastor
301-474-7573
6301 Greenbelt Road
Berwyn Heights, MD 20740

Worship : Sun 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (Child Care Available)
Office Hours : Mon, Thu, Fri 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tue, Wed 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
"A hospitable, multicultural community of faith"



ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322

Mass Schedule:
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe



Congregation Mishkan Torah
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-474-4223
An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Shabbat services: Friday evening at 8:00 PM, except 1st Friday of the month, i.e. family service at 7:30 PM. Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM. Educational programs for children K-12 and for adults. Combined innovative full family educational program for parents and children. Conversion classes. Concert choir. Social Action program. Opportunity for leadership development. Moderate, flexible dues. High holiday seating for visitors. Sisterhood. Men's Club. Other Social Activities. Interfaith families are welcome.
Historic synagogue dually affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation



Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410
Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor
Worship Service 10 a.m.



“To Live Is Christ, And To Die Is Gain”

Come join us in exploring Paul’s letter to the Philippians.
Sunday Mornings at 11:00am

Greenbelt Baptist Church
101 Greenhill Road Greenbelt, MD 20770
(301) 474-4212 www.greenbeltbaptist.org

St. George’s Episcopal Church
Join us around a table where all are welcome!

Services

- Sundays
8 a.m. simple, quiet service (no music)
10 a.m. main service
(music includes a mixture of acoustic guitar, piano and organ music)
- Wednesdays
7 p.m. service with healing prayers (no music)

7010 Glenn Dale Road (Lanham-Severn Road & Glenn Dale Road)
301-262-3285 | rector@stgeo.org | www.stgeo.org



Christian Science Church
8300 Adelphi Rd. • Hyattsville, MD
301-422-1822
Sunday service 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. (doors open at 10 a.m.)
Sunday school 10:30 (for youth up to age 20)
Sunday Bible lesson topics:
Dec. 15: “God the Preserver of Man”
Dec. 22: “Christmas theme”
Dec. 29: “Christian Science”
Jan. 5: “God”
Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m. testimonies of healings/gratitude sharing (doors open at 7 p.m.)
Reading room (for study, sales, borrowing) open ½ hour before & after services



Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org


Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

Sunday, December 15 at 10 a.m.
Seek Out The Love In You
Rev. Diane Teichert with Ken Redd, Worship Associate and our Lay Ministers
How we care for each other is a special ministry that is shared among us in many ways. Newcomers are invited for informal conversation with the Minister in her office, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Celebrate the Birth of Your Lord At Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Festive Advent Service - Dec 22nd - 9:30 a.m.
Christmas Eve - Dec 24th
12:15 p.m. Simple Service of Holy Communion
9:00 p.m. Festive Service of Holy Communion
Christmas Day - Dec 25th
9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
6905 Greenbelt, RD 301-345-5111
www.Myholycross.org (Join us on Facebook)



Upcoming Events At New Deal Café

Thursday, December 12 pianist Amy C. Kraft plays midday melodies from noon to 2 p.m., with an open microphone session with James and Martha in the evening from 7 to 9 p.m.

On Friday, December 13 pianist John Guernsey plays classical and jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m., then Beggars Tomb will recreate classic Grateful Dead renditions from 8 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, December 14 Bruce Krittr plays classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m. Guernsey plays up-tempo jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m., followed by headliners the Cousin John Band from 8 to 11 p.m.

On Sunday, December 15 the weekly deaf brunch discussion is from 10:30 a.m. to noon, with the Not 2 Cool Jazz Trio playing from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. From 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. the monthly kids open microphone session is held for the whole family. From 6 to 8 p.m. the Fez Tones Hafla will offer live Middle Eastern music and dance, with musicians on the oud, darbuka and riq.

Next Week

Monday, December 16 at 7 p.m., the monthly Reel & Meal at the New Deal series will screen “War on Whistleblowers.” The film tells the story of four whistleblowers during the intense post-9/11 “war on terror.” An optional vegan buffet is available for purchase at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 17 the Poetry Night open microphone session will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, December 18 the Cajun Music Jam will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, December 19 Kraft plays midday melodies from noon to 2 p.m. In the evening there will be an open microphone session with Joe Harris from 7 to 9 p.m. On Friday, December 20 Guernsey plays classical and jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m., then Black Masala will play from the melodies of European brass bands from 8 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, December 21 begins with Krittr on classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m., followed by Guernsey’s up-tempo jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m. ilyAIMY headlines with hyperspeed guitar and perfect harmonies from 8 to 11 p.m.

Greenbelt Joins HEAL Wellness Campaign

At the end of November council passed a resolution to join the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Cities & Towns Campaign for the Mid-Atlantic. HEAL champions local government policies to improve access to healthy foods and physical activities in small and large communities in Maryland and Virginia. The campaign aligns with other council objectives including adopting of the Pedestrian and Bicyclist Master Plan.

The Institute for Public Health Innovation provides free training, support and technical policy assistance to municipal leaders that includes analyzing policies and updates. Updating administrative procedures to facilitate HEAL objectives for residents and employees is another objective.

The Campaign is meant to assist in an epidemic of obesity or overweight that now affects 64 percent of the state’s adults and one in three children and costs some \$3.032 billion in 2009 to treat diseases and conditions related to obesity.

Food Pantry Pick-up to Be Held Dec. 15 throughout City

On Sunday, December 15 starting at 9 a.m. a volunteer group will hold a food drive in Old Greenbelt to increase the supply of nonperishable food for the St. Hugh’s Church Food Pantry larder which serves all of Greenbelt. Generous support will help keep the Food Pantry supplied for the winter season.

Donors are asked to leave

donated items at the ends of driveways in Boxwood Village, Lakewood, Woodland Hills and Lakeside. In Greenbelt Homes and Charlestowne Village townhomes, donated items can be left at the ends of court walkways. Charlestown North residents are requested to leave donated items just outside their building front door.

The Food Pantry is most

in need of nonperishable food items like boxed cereal, jelly or jam, canned soup, baked beans, vegetables and fruit, rice, macaroni and cheese, jars/cans of spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, crackers, tuna fish, spaghetti/pasta and coffee or tea.

Leaders for this volunteer effort are Steve Marques and family.

CPAE Photography Club Meets Friday

Photography buffs who want to attend and participate in The Underexposed, the photography club sponsored by College Park Arts Exchange (CPAE) may attend meetings on Friday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park. For more information visit www.facebook.com/groups/photo20740.

What to give the Greenbelter who has everything?

How about making a tax-deductible contribution to the Greenbelt Community Foundation in their name?

By helping to support local projects and organizations through The Foundation, you truly give the gift that keeps on giving.

Honor them and help your community at the same time.

Donations can be sent to P.O. Box 234, Greenbelt, Maryland 20768




New Year’s Eve with Hard Swimmin’ Fish!

Honkin’ Blues harmonica with Karim and Maria’s Special Menu: appetizers, soup & salad, entrée, dessert & champagne at midnight!

\$55 p/person Reservations recommended.

New Deal Café 113 Centerway
www.newdealcafe.com 301.474.5642



City Information

MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 16-20

Monday, December 18 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION-Briefing on Organizational Assessment** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and Streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov

Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES** at Public Works Facility, 555 Crescent Road.

Wednesday, December 18 at 7:30pm, **PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD** at Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

Wednesday, December 18 at 8:00 pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: Theatre Renovation** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

Thursday, December 19 at 7pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road Room 114. On the Agenda: Gardenway Gardens, Henry’s Hollow Gardens, Hamilton Gardens, Motion presented on Hamilton and Henry’s Hollow Gardens (routine maintenance and boundaries clearings), AK FPAB report (2013-02), minority report and Greenbelt News Review article.

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING
Friday, December 13, Begins at 7:00pm

Holiday lights will adorn the tree in the traditional spirit of the Festival of Lights season. A musical performance by the Greenbelt Concert Band Brass Choir will herald Santa’s grand entrance to help light the tree. Complimentary cookies and hot chocolate will be provided by the Recreation Dept.

DECO THE HALLS!
December 13th, 7pm-9pm at 10-B Crescent Road in conjunction with the city’s Tree Lighting. Free admission. See the Greenbelt Museum’s historic house, decorated for the holidays in vintage style. Gift shop open.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONCERT
Sunday, December 15th at 3:00pm
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crecent Road
Free admission. Enjoy an afternoon of holiday music with the Greenbelt Concert Band.

DONATION DROP-OFF
American Rescue Workers

Saturday, December 14, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Parking lot between City Office and the Community Center

City of Greenbelt Recycling Office: 301-474-8308

UPCOMING LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

December 16 – 20: Woodland Hills and Greenbrook Village & Estates
December 23-27: Lakewood and Greenspring I & II

Program will continue into January. Full schedule available at www.greenbeltmd.gov.


Leaf bags are no longer available at the City Office, but can be purchased at local grocery and hardware stores.



Follow the City of Greenbelt on Pinterest!

See great ideas for an Energy Efficient Home, Gardening, Planting and Composting, Repurposed Art, Greenbelt Parks, Recyclable Christmas, Snow Days and more!

<http://www.pinterest.com/cgreenbelt/>



HAVE YOU VISITED THE GREENBELT ANIMAL SHELTER LATELY?
550-A Crescent Road
(behind Police Station)
301-474-6124
Come out and visit all of our available pets!
The shelter is open on Wednesdays 4-7pm and on Saturdays 9am-12pm

WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS!
The shelter is looking for bedding, wet cat food, dry dog food, dish soap, detergent, paper plates, bleach and more. Donations can be dropped off in front of the shelter or call the number listed above. See our pets on Facebook

www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt

COUNCIL continued from page 1

and Silke Pope noted that they had not originally supported GSA development in the North Core, but liked the revisions and thought it would be good for Greenbelt. Bill Orleans complained that this agreement was being rushed through at the last minute and he was unable to see the details on the flip charts shown by Garth Beall, the developer’s representative. Beall said he would try to make something available to the public. Beall also indicated the developer would address council’s concerns. A motion by Pope to approve the additional agreement received unanimous support from council. A decision by GSA is expected in March 2014.

New Master Plan

The Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) has updated the General Plan for Prince George’s County. An assessment has shown that the county had not progressed as hoped in achieving the goals of the 2002 plan. The new plan was developed using input from the Envision Prince George’s County project. It replaces the three development tiers of the old plan with a Priority Investment Strategy designating eight Regional Transit Centers and six Neighborhood Reinvestment Areas, both of which are broken down into further categories. Rural and Agricultural Areas are identified and recommended for continued protection.

According to a memo from Assistant Director of Planning Teri Hruby to the city manager, staff believes the plan is consistent with

the city’s goals with regard to open space preservation, environmental stewardship, transit expansion and provision of multi-modal transit facilities, community health, housing needs and economic development.

Staff does take issue, however, with a section on land use and recommends the City of Greenbelt support an amendment proposed by the City of Bowie to give municipalities more of a role in land-use planning. Bowie officials have suggested an amendment to allow a municipality to function in the role of the Planning Board in preparing a Master Plan and to have development review within its jurisdiction. Councilmember Rodney Roberts asked what chance this amendment has of passing and the response was general laughter.

Staff also recommends adding Primary Employment Areas under “First Steps” of implementation to target county resources to these areas.

Greenbelt Metro has been designated a Regional Employment Center. Based on future development that is envisioned, however, staff believes it should be called a Major Regional Center along with New Carrollton, Largo, Branch Avenue, Prince George’s Plaza Metros and the New Carrollton Purple Line Station.

At the heart of the discussion was the idea, “widely published” according to Jordan that Greenbelt is the primary site in Maryland for location of a new FBI headquarters. Hruby told council

the county is taking a “wait-and-see” attitude on Greenbelt Metro and considers that it could be a “game-changer” in the plan’s final form. She thinks the county should recognize the development potential and economic value of Greenbelt Metro and upgrade it to a Major Regional Center and a Priority Investment District. If so identified, Greenbelt Metro would be one of four such targets for county resources for the next five years with a higher priority than that for Primary Employment Areas.

A motion by Davis to support the plan with staff’s recommended changes carried unanimously.

The public may comment on the plan until December 16 to 301-952-3211, PlanPGC2035@mnccppc.org or www.planpgc2035.com.

Retirement Liability

The City of Greenbelt can save up to \$1.2 million by refinancing its unfounded liability to the Maryland State Retirement Agency. The interest rate would go down from 7.5 and 8 percent on bonds with 23 years remaining to 5.3 percent for the first 15 years through SunTrust Bank. After 15 years, the rate would be reset for the last five years but the debt may be prepaid at any time.

Davis read the ordinance and made a motion to suspend the rules, which was approved. She then read the ordinance for second reading and adoption. The suspension of the rules was necessary, as council will not meet again before the city’s payment on the liability is due on December 30.

LIONS continued from page 1

became a member in 2000. She has served as club president for three years since.

“I pretty much keep them on task,” Varda said. “It’s the retired teacher in me.”

Varda taught at Bladensburg High School and High Point High School for 31 years and decided to devote her time to the Lions Club after she retired. Since becoming a member, she has enjoyed helping the community through the club.

“It’s a wonderful group of people that I work with,” Varda said. “You won’t find nicer people than the Lions.”

Choper is also a retired educator, who worked as a science professor at Montgomery College for 35 years. He said that he was already active at his synagogue but wanted to branch out with another service organization.

“I went to a couple meetings and liked the people there,” Choper said. “I stayed for the friendship.”

Varda said that Greenbelt’s former mayor Judith Davis is a Lions Club member, along with Councilmember Konrad Herling. Varda explained that the connections with the local government are helpful but the club returns the favor by serving the community.

“The city helps us but we also help the city,” Varda said.

The Lions particularly serve people in the community with disabilities. They donate medical equipment where it is needed, from walkers to glasses.

Varda chuckled while remembering the excitement of a woman in her 90s, who was able to move around freely because of a wheelchair provided by the Lions.

“She was so thrilled,” Varda said. “She got herself into this chair and started wheeling this chair around saying, ‘Oh this is so exciting! I can go shopping with my daughter and my granddaughter now!’”

Still, Choper said that the Lions are focused on helping those with vision problems. He believes tests and screenings are vital for people who might not yet know that they have an issue.

“How many people have glaucoma and don’t know before it’s too late?” Choper said.

Varda agreed, emphasizing the importance of the eye exams for children because they may not realize they have a problem. Varda said that many of these conditions can be treated if detected early and she enjoys making a difference in the lives of children.

“If I can help a child in some way, either by getting them glasses or certainly by preventing them from being blind in one eye,” Varda said, “how much more could you ask for in life?”

Varda said that the Greenbelt Lions are always looking for new members. The club encourages anyone interested in making a difference in their community to come out to a meeting or contact a club member. The club meets the second and fourth Tuesdays at 6:44 p.m. at the American Legion Post 136, 6900 Greenbelt Road.

Don't Miss a Step Because of Joint Pain.

Our Comprehensive Joint Replacement Program Can Help.

Doctors Community Hospital’s orthopedic program provides hope for people who suffer from **arthritis and other joint pain in their hips, knees or shoulders**. With a wide range of services that include accurate diagnoses, advanced surgical treatments and effective rehabilitation options, our experienced team has helped many people **reduce or eliminate their joint pain**.

In fact, our program has:

- ✦ Board-certified surgeons
- ✦ Fellowship-trained surgeon
- ✦ Highly skilled and compassionate physical therapists
- ✦ Surgical options that may result in **shorter hospital stays, smaller incisions and faster recovery**
- ✦ Non-surgical treatment options

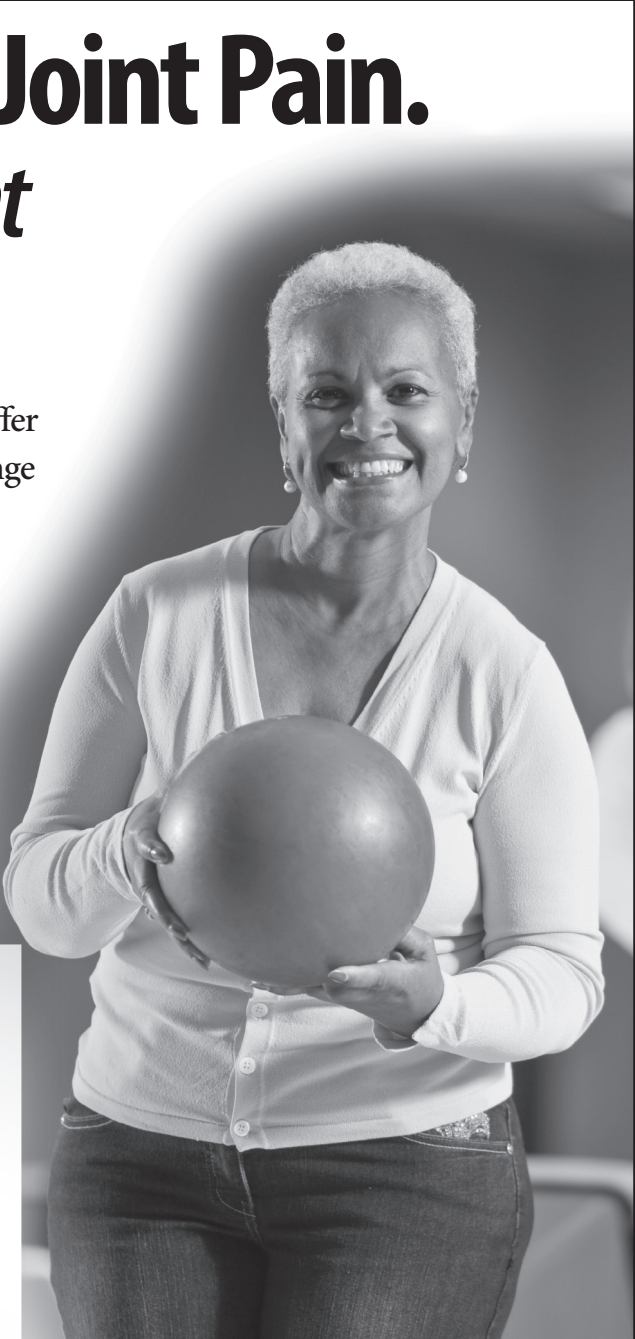
In addition to three physical therapy offices, we provide diagnostic, treatment and rehabilitation services at convenient locations in **Bowie, Clinton and Lanham**.

Call us today to learn if hip, knee or shoulder replacement surgery is right for you.

301-DCH-4YOU 301-324-4968
DCHweb.org/ortho



8118 Good Luck Road
Lanham, Maryland 20706



BRADBURY continued from page 1

Maryland College Park. While at the university, Bradbury was a member of an alternative rock band and worked other jobs before deciding to become a teacher.

“I thought it would be fun,” said Bradbury.

Bradbury’s path to teaching was unorthodox. He began after he started a tutoring program for ninth graders at ERHS and things fell into place from there.

“I got picked . . . to be a student-teacher,” said Bradbury. “Then I got picked up by Roosevelt and I’ve been here since.”

Bradbury is constantly active in the lives of students. He helped start and run the Muslim Student Association, which he has sponsored for the last 12 years, and was the newspaper adviser for 10 years before passing the torch to the current sponsor.

In addition to being an engaging teacher, he is most known for his golf prowess and expertise as the golf coach at Eleanor Roosevelt. Bradbury was recently named 2013 Prince George’s County Coach of the Year by the Gazette and says he works constantly with players to improve Prince George’s County Public Schools’ presence in the sport.

”We’re trying to build up the program around the county,” said Bradbury.

Bradbury says the student-teacher program is his favorite among those he is part of – it allows college students to intern in his classroom to learn how to be effective teachers. He also serves as the site coordinator for mentors and student teachers at ERHS.

Training Is Fun

Bradbury said, “It’s fun training the next generation of teachers.”

Bradbury structures his class in a free-flowing manner that allows for more discussion than rote memorization and copying. Students said they have found Bradbury to be a very engaging teacher who is willing to help explain and work with them for the betterment of their education.

Krystal Smith, a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt, said, “I loved his stories. I learned a lot . . . I saw a major improvement in my writing. My favorite part was analyzing the different [novels] . . . I really enjoyed it.”

Today Bradbury teaches ninth-grade honors English, advance placement language and composition and a two-year advance placement Capstone program.

“It’s still fun, even after 13 years,” said Bradbury. “I like teaching about language and persuasion and arguments. It’s just a lot of fun.”

RENYER continued from page 1

“He is a really good teacher. He always engages the student and having him as a teacher is a blast,” Thomas said.

With a penchant for photography and travel, Renyer enriches his classroom and sponsors school field trips to countries all around the world that are relevant to his course. Last year, he took his students, including this reporter, to Istanbul, where they visited the Blue Mosque and many other historical sites such as the Grand Bazaar.

He and his students got to indulge in Turkish culture for 10 days while traveling around the country and touring historic sites and connecting their school-based education with the world.

As a swim coach in college, Renyer discovered teaching. “When I was in college I started coaching swimming. I enjoyed it a lot working with the kids. I couldn’t work in economics and continue to coach swimming. So after a year-long job search, I decided to go back to school, which would enable me to teach in school and coach swimming.”

Renyer is an inspiration, has a comedic delivery and is an extraordinary teacher. He deserves to be recognized for his hard work and dedication to his students.

Nutcracker Ballet

On Sunday, December 15 at 3:30 p.m. the College Parks Arts Exchange (CPAE) and Connect the Dots Dance Company present the Nutcracker, an interactive, family friendly experience that includes a narration, ballet craft, ballet class and a chance to explore costumes and sets.

This event is free but donations are welcome to help support Connect the Dots Dance, a local dance company dedicated to bringing the art of dance to children. Ask at the door for a parking permit for free street parking. The event takes place at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road. For details, email info@cpae.org or call 301-927-3013.

Monthly Kids Nature Series at Patuxent

On Tuesday, December 17 from 10 to 10:45 a.m., children ages 4 and 5 can join a monthly nature series at Patuxent Wildlife Refuge. This month features a book about raccoons. Each program begins with an illustrated children’s story about wildlife. Participants will learn about nature with puppets, props and activities.

Public programs at the Patuxent Research Refuge are free although advance registration is required by calling 301-497-5887. For more information visit the website at www.patuxent.fws.gov. The Visitor Center is on Powder Mill Road.

visit us @ www.greenbeltnewsreview.com



The Board of Directors and Staff of GHI

Would Like to Wish

All our Members and Friends in the

Greenbelt Community



May Your Homes and Hearts be Filled with

Peace, Hope and Joy this Season

and in the New Year.

These are just a few of the great buys you will find at Co-op this week!

Prices Effective: December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	16	17	18	19	20	21
22						

New Sunday hours

121 CENTERWAY–ROOSEVELT CENTER GREENBELT, MARYLAND

Visit us online at www.greenbelt.coop

SUPERMARKET

Monday thru Saturday 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. 301-474-0522

PHARMACY

Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. until 7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. 301-474-4400
Closed Sunday

Greenbelt

COOP

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Fresh Quality Meat		Farm Fresh Produce		Dairy	Frozen	Seafood
Shurfine Whole Smoked Boneless Ham \$1 ⁸⁸ lb.		Fresh Sweet Spanish Clementines \$4 ⁸⁸ 5 lb. box		Land-O-Lakes Pure Butter Quarters \$2 ⁵⁰ 1 lb.	Banquet Assorted Family Size Dinners \$2 ⁹⁹ 24-28 oz.	Fresh Catch Skinless Haddock Fillets \$8 ⁹⁹ lb.
Fresh Value Pack Boneless & Skinless Chicken Breasts, Thighs \$1 ⁹⁹ lb.		Fresh California Crisp Celery stalk 99¢		Kraft Cracker Barrel Cheese Chunks \$2 ⁰⁰ Assorted 7-8 oz.	Hanover Gold Line Vegetables \$1 ⁵⁰ Assorted 8-12 oz.	East Coast Fresh Oysters \$7 ⁹⁹ Select/Standard 8 oz.
Fresh Lean Beef Boneless N.Y. Strip Steak \$5 ⁹⁹ lb.		Fresh Eastern Apples 99¢ lb. Fuji/Gala/Delicious/MacIntosh		Minute Maid Orange Juice \$2 ⁵⁰ Assorted 59 oz.	Stouffer's French Bread Pizza 3/\$8 ⁰⁰ Assorted 10-13 oz.	Sea Best Pasteurized Lump Crabmeat \$10 ⁹⁹ 1 lb.
Grocery Bargains				Customer Appreciation Discount Day Wednesday, Dec. 18 5% Discount to ALL customers on ALL purchases (except stamps and gift cards)	Grocery Bargains	
Green Giant Vegetables 60¢ Canned Corn/Peas/Gr. Beans 14-16 oz.		Thomas' English Muffins BUY ONE GET TWO FREE Sel. Varieties 6 pk.	Shurfine Canned Fruit or Pineapple \$1 ⁰⁰ Asst. 15-20 oz.		Red Pack Tomatoes \$1 ⁰⁰ Assorted Family Size 28-29 oz.	
Stove Top Stuffing Mixes \$1 ²⁵ Assorrtd 5-6 oz.		Domino Granulated Sugar \$2 ⁰⁰ 4 lb. bag	Gold Medal Flour \$2 ⁰⁰ Regular/Ubleached 5 lb.		Maxwell House Ground Coffee \$6 ⁸⁸ Sel. Var. 28-21 oz.	
Deli		Bakery		Natural & Gourmet	Health & Beauty	Beer & Wine
Deli Gourmet Virginia Cooked Ham \$4 ⁹⁹ lb.		Fresh Store Baked Dinner Rolls \$2 ⁴⁹ Assorted 12 pk.		Bahlsen Gourmet Chocolate Wafer Rolls \$1 ⁹⁹ 3.5 oz.	Vo-5 Shampoo 88¢ Assorted 15 oz.	Colores Del Sol Wines \$7 ⁹⁹ 750 ML
Alpine Lace Swiss Style Cheese \$8 ⁹⁹ lb.		Fresh Store Baked Large Pies \$4 ⁹⁹ Assorted 10 inch		Gerolsteiner Mineral Water \$1 ⁵⁹ 25.3 oz.	Robitussin Cold Medicine \$4 ⁹⁹ Assorted 4 oz.	Natural Light Beer \$4 ⁴⁹ 6 pack – 12 oz. cans

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/index.htm>, link in left frame to “Weekly Report” or http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf.
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Robbery

December 4, 8:40 p.m., 6100 Greenbelt Road. A Game Stop cashier was robbed at gunpoint after a man entered the store, produced a gun and announced a robbery. He took an unknown amount of money, fled and entered a white vehicle, heading westbound on Greenbelt Road. He is described as a black male, 5’10”, with a medium build and a medium complexion, wearing green camouflage pants and a black-and-white striped shirt under a grey hooded sweatshirt.

Theft

November 28, 10:26 a.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. An unattended purse was taken from the Dollar Store by an unknown person.

November 29, 4:52 p.m., 6100 Greenbelt Road. A 19-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with theft after allegedly marking down items for others to purchase while working as a cashier at the Target store. He was released on citation pending trial.

November 30, 6 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court. An unattended children’s Power Wheels battery-operated police vehicle was taken by an unknown person.

DWI/DUI

November 30, 1:30 a.m., Kenilworth Avenue and Greenbelt Road. A 37-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with multiple alcohol-related and other traffic-related charges. He was released on citations pending trial.

December 1, 10:14 p.m., Kenilworth Avenue and Greenbelt Road. A 48-year-old Greenbelt resident was arrested and charged with multiple alcohol-related violations and other traffic-related charges. He was released on citations pending trial.

Burglary

November 28, 9:47 a.m., 3 court Parkway. A yellow mountain bike was removed

from a storage unit which had been forced open by an unknown person.

December 2, 1:54 p.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace. Two tablets and two laptop computers were taken by an unknown person, who may have forced entry through a sliding glass door.

December 4, 11:15 a.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court. A resident, after hearing a knock at his door, looked through the peep-hole viewer and saw a man looking toward his neighbor’s apartment. Assuming the knock was for the neighbor’s door, the resident walked away. A short time later the man heard a loud bang, then observed his door opened and the unknown man running out of his apartment. The forced entry damaged the door. The suspect is described as a black male, 150 to 160 pounds, with a thin build.

Vandalism

November 30, 2:41 p.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace. The bedroom window of a residence was broken out by an unknown person.

Vehicle Crime

A 2000 Dodge Intrepid 4-door was stolen on November 27 from the 6000 block Springhill Drive and recovered on November 30 by the Metropolitan Police Department in the 3900 block of Minnesota Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. Two adults were arrested.

A black 1998 Lexus GS400 4-door was stolen on December 4 from the 7200 block Morrison Drive, Maryland tags 1EED48.

Thefts from autos occurred in the 9300 block Edmonston Road on November 27 (tools, digital camera), 9100 block Springhill Court on December 1 (three tires and rims) and 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace on December 2 (Md. temporary tag T939026).

A tire was slashed in the 6200 block Springhill Drive on December 3.



Condolences to the family and friends of former Greenbelter Robert C. Mongelli, 73, of Kill Devil Hills, N.C., who died November 28, 2013. After retiring from the federal government, he was a substitute teacher and assistant football coach at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

Congratulations to Mark Fuchs, son of Diane Fuchs and grandson of Diane Ronchi and Magdalene Fuchs, who graduated November 14, 2013, at the Paris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot.

Elizabeth Seton graduate Elisabeth Rose Commins, the daughter of Mark Commins and Monica Mische, is serving in a 10-month AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) national service program in Sacramento, California.

Bill Fern sends best wishes to friends in Greenbelt and Berwyn Heights and wants them to know that after 10 years in Bethany Beach he and Linda have moved to Westminster Woods on Julington Creek, St. Johns, FL 32259.

Send us your reports of new babies, awards, honors, etc. to share with our readers. To send information for “Our Neighbors,” email us at newsreview@verizon.net or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

– Kathleen McFarland



Ray Lorder and Mark Santangelo

Joan Baker Helps Brother with Book

Greenbelter Joan Baker accompanied her brother, Raymond G. (“Ray”) Lorber, to Mount Vernon as he presented his first book, “George Washington’s Providence,” to the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington.

Chief librarian and archivist Mark Santangelo expressed pleasure at receiving the book, which uses primary sources such as letters and diaries to reveal the First President’s belief that divine Providence was guiding him in his leadership and destiny. Joan helped to edit the book and wrote a review which was published by Amazon.

On October 22, the day before the Mount Vernon presentation, Lorber, a 1952 graduate of Holy Redeemer School in Berwyn, now a resident of San Rafael, Calif., gave an interactive talk about George Washington to 8th graders at the school.

In a message to Jennifer Eller, history chairman at the school, he said he had “come a long way” since he was a student there.

– Kathleen McFarland

Two Climate Experts To Speak at GCAN

On Tuesday, December 17 at 7 p.m. the Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) will host two climate change experts in a program to be held in Room 114 at the Greenbelt Community Center. Sara Via and Barbara Sollner-Webb with the Climate Reality Project will provide an update on the progress of climate change, Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and the recent Climate Change talks in Warsaw, Poland.

The discussion will cover social, political and economic aspects of life that extend the effect of environmental change globally, that it is caused by human activities and is affecting Marylanders now. They will present evidence linking recent increases in severe weather and climate change. Climate change negatively affects human health, agriculture and food security and is jeopardizing global supplies of food and fresh water, contributing to social unrest although action now can still prevent worsening conditions.

Dr. Via is a professor of biology and entomology at the University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. Sollner-Webb (formerly a resident, now living in Laurel) is a professor of biological chemistry at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

For more details call Lore Rosenthal at 301-345-2234 or email lore@simplicity-matters.org.

Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club

Welcomes Maryland Delegate Marvin Holmes

who will swear in the new Board of Directors and discuss the upcoming legislative session in Annapolis

Will fracking be on the agenda? Minimum Wage?
Increased funding for city streets?
Do you have any concerns or questions or insights about these and other issues?

Come join us, catch up with old friends, meet new friends and think about how would you like to help out the club.

Any questions? Call (301) 220-1025.

NOTICE TO GHI MEMBERS

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MEETING

Thursday, December 19, 2013

GHI ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 7:30 PM

GHI Key Agenda Items:

- Expenditure Authorization for 2014 GHI Budget, 2nd Reading
- Business Owner’s Insurance Policy Renewal, 2nd Reading
- Review Minutes for 2013 Annual Membership Meeting
- Proposed Revision to Formal Hearing Procedures
- Buildings Committee Recommendation for Maintenance of Pilot Project Phase 2C Components
- Yard Line Certification of 45 B-S Ridge Road
- Review Cost Components - Heating/Cooling Systems Selected by Pilot Members
- Finance Committee Recommendations for Fee Increases to ‘Service and Other Income’ Components

Regular Board meetings are open to Members
For more information, visit our website - www.ghi.coop

To request a sign language interpreter for this meeting, go to <http://www.ghi.coop/content/interpreter-request-form>, or go to the GHI Office (One Hamilton Place) or contact us by phone (301-474-4161) or fax (301-474-4006).

“An Evening with Friends Celebrates the New Year and Greenbelt’s Wonder of Nature”

at the
Greenbelt Arts Center

December 31, 2013, 8 p.m.

ENJOY Music featuring Emmett Jordan, Roody Rosales and Konrad Herling as well as Jan Knutson
BE ENRICHED – by Eric Zhang’s photography featuring Greenbelt’s woods
DANCE – Cynthia Newcomer is bringing the music. Now all you have to do is dance (*conga line maybe?*)
LAUGH – Enjoy a good comedian, Pete Pinocci – You heard him at the Crazy Quilt Festival
SING – Karyoke (how well you sing is up to you)
DELIGHT – a drink of hot coffee or chocolate or some wine and cheese and a little wine
RECALL – through the poetry of fellow Greenbelters, film from the Utopia Film Festival, video recorded by Greenbelt Access TV the commitment to preserve our woods and nature
REFLECT – A performance of “Missing You,” an original piece by Konrad Herling, will be performed
SHARE – joining in the mall at 11:45 a.m. to sing “Auld Lange Syne”

For more information call Konrad at 301-345-9369.
\$17 Adults; \$14 Students, Seniors & Military

The event is co-produced by Susan Barnett & Konrad Herling with lots of help from friends.

Part 1 of 2

ACA Rollout Has Greenbelt Impact

by Marat Moore

The national rollout of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has expanded options for eligible Greenbelters to apply for insurance coverage on the state’s health exchange, known as the Maryland Health Connection (www.marylandhealthconnection.gov). Expanded Medicaid benefits also are offered under the ACA. In addition, the health care law has resulted in the creation of new cooperative health care plans, including Evergreen Health Co-op in Maryland, which has opened an office in Greenbelt.

The ACA is designed for people 18 to 64 years of age who are not covered by an employer health insurance plan. Under the ACA, most people in that uninsured group must have health insurance in 2014 or pay a penalty.

But not everyone needs to take action. Individuals who are covered through their employers will not see a change in coverage. If an individual or family is currently enrolled in Medicaid, the individual does not need to do anything, but will be contacted when it is time to renew Medicaid coverage. Active Primary Adult Care (PAC) enrollees will be transferred automatically to full Medicaid benefits.

Medicare beneficiaries already are covered and need make no changes. The ACA does not provide health exchange insurance as secondary insurance for Medicare.

Open enrollment for the ACA will be in effect until March 31, 2014, with a preliminary deadline of December 23, 2013, for residents who wish coverage to begin on January 1, 2014. Greenbelt residents can enroll online or by phone or meet personally with a “navigator” at county offices and other locations in the area. Saturday hours have been added at several locations.

Navigator Enrollment

One Greenbelt location is on the list of enrollment sites. The Community Clinic at 9220 Springhill Lane in Franklin Park is the only local “partner agency” of Maryland Health Connection. The clinic, a primary-care facility offering a wide range of affordable medical and dental services to all city residents, has a navigator available for scheduled appointments.

“Navigators have a wealth of knowledge. They can handle any technical problems and also determine the tax credits and subsidies to which enrollees may be entitled,” said Jose Luis Diaz, communications director for the Community Clinic, Inc. health network, which serves northern Prince George’s County and Montgomery County.

He said that enrollment with a navigator’s assistance generally takes 45 minutes to an hour. To schedule an appointment, call the clinic at 240-624-2278 or call CCI’s “navigator hotline” at 240-839-5810 and leave a name

and phone number. A navigator will return the call and set up an appointment.

The Maryland Health Connection has set up six regional offices to coordinate education and outreach to state residents. The Capital Health Connection (capitalhealthconnection.org) serves Prince George’s County and Montgomery County, one of the most populous regions in the state. The regional effort is coordinated through Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services.

Mary Anderson, the public information officer with the department, is holding ACA enrollment events throughout the region. The region has set an ambitious target to sign up 52,000 people by March 31, 2014, a third of the estimated 150,000 people in the two counties who lack insurance. Statewide, 730,000 people (12.4 percent of the population) have no health insurance.

After a slow start due to website glitches on the state exchange, people are signing up and Anderson is optimistic that the numbers will continue to grow.

At one enrollment event in Silver Spring, she said, “I saw people waiting patiently to enroll and, although there were a few computer problems, they were

elated when they found out what they could qualify for.”

“Particularly this has been helpful to couples where one spouse isn’t covered or adult children over 26 who have ‘aged out’ of existing coverage.”

Health Care Co-op

The ACA also includes a little-known provision for the creation and funding of cooperative health care plans, including the only plan authorized in Maryland, Evergreen Health Co-op. Evergreen is listed on the state health care exchange as the only small-business insurer in Maryland and has opened an office in Greenway Center in Greenbelt.

Evergreen will operate as a consumer cooperative, with profits used to lower premiums and improve care. About two dozen health cooperatives have been established nationwide under ACA but those in states with state exchanges, like Maryland, will face an easier road than cooperatives in states that have refused to set up state exchanges and must rely on the federal exchange.

Governed by an elected board, the cooperatives received start-up funds through ACA but must become self-sustaining. The plan was created to provide competition for large insurers participating in the ACA program.

School Superintendent Maxwell Leads in Md.

The Prince George’s County Public Schools’ (PGCPS) Superintendent, Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D., has been selected the top Maryland school system leader for 2014.

The Superintendent of the Year is selected from nominations for the award made by public school districts throughout the state. The prestigious award recognizes outstanding leadership, dedication to academic excellence and ability to engage stakeholders in the education process.

Maxwell, who was appointed as PGCPS Superintendent in June, began his career in public education with PGCPS in 1978, serving 22 years as a teacher, principal and administrator, worked in Montgomery County as a principal and Community Superintendent from 2000 to 2006 and then as Superintendent of Anne Arundel Public Schools for seven years.

Maxwell said, “This is one of the highest honors I have received during my 35-year career in education. When you are selected by your peers for such recognition, it is both a thrilling and humbling experience. I extend my sincerest thanks to my colleagues for their nomination.” Nominators especially mentioned Maxwell’s ability for building partnerships and bringing the community together in support of public education.

IRS Warns Threats Are Bogus, Scams

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has issued a warning about a brutish, threatening and fairly sophisticated phone scam directed particularly at recent immigrants, across the country.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses they are threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver’s license. The caller may become hostile and insulting.

The IRS says it does not and will not ask for credit card numbers over the phone nor request a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer. They indicate the first contact is likely to be by mail and/or “follow up” emails. Other elements of the fraud include use of fake, usually common names and surnames, along with IRS badge numbers. Scammers may have the last four digits of the victim’s Social Security Number. Caller ID “spoofs” the IRS toll-free number on caller ID to make it appear that the IRS is calling and background noises that sounds like other calls, mimicking a call site. After threatening jail time or license revocation, scammers hang up, with others soon calling back posing as local police or DMV, again with the caller ID supporting the claim.

Report this activity to <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/>; mention IRS Telephone Scam.

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TRANSFER VHS TAPES, slides, photos, mini DV tapes and home movies to DVD. Audio tapes and records to CDs. 301-474-6748.

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Send Holiday Greetings

The News Review will publish holiday greetings in the December 19 issue.

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RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 10 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 7 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

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Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road,
Greenbelt

Thursday, December 19, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.,
Sport Automotive, 3101 Automobile Boulevard,
Silver Spring

Tuesday, December 24, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.,
Montgomery County Chapter House,
2020 East-West Highway,
Silver Spring

Thursday, December 26, 1 to 6 p.m.,
Montgomery County Chapter House,
2020 East-West Highway,
Silver Spring

Monday, December 30, 1:30 to 7 p.m.,
Montgomery County Chapter House,
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CP Community Center
Hosts Santa Breakfast

A free Breakfast with Santa will be held Saturday, December 14 from 10 a.m. to noon. People are invited to come, meet Santa, have a light breakfast and be entertained by magicians and face painters. There will also be small prizes. All ages are welcome.

The event will be at College Park Community Center and Youth Soccer Complex, 5051 Pierce Avenue, College Park.

For more information call 301-441-2647; TTY 301-445-4512.



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Local NAMI Support
Group Meets

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) New Carrollton Area Support Group will meet at the Hanco building at Beckett Field, 8511 Legation Road, New Carrollton, on Monday December 16 from 10 a.m. to noon. This supportive work group prepares the mailing and provides other tasks while sharing their mental health experiences, challenges and solutions.

For details call Edward R. Bowles at 240-606-4352 or email ohhat2@gmail.com.

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2 BR GHI Townhome - Block townhouse just steps from Roosevelt Center. Enclosed foyer entrance, separate dining room, w/d, ceiling fans and more.
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Block Townhome - Attached Garage - 2 bedroom remodeled GHI home. Remodeled throughout - hardwood flooring on lower level. Very nice!
Large Corner Lot - 2 bedroom GHI townhome with shade trees, privacy hedges and spacious storage shed. Just steps away from Roosevelt Center.
Walk To Roosevelt Center - 2 BR block w/downstairs study. Remodeled kit. w/Silestone counters, s/s oven and refrigerator. Very modern; you'll love it!
1 Bedroom Upper Level Home - Attic storage space. New tub surround in bathroom. Full-sized washer and dryer in spacious laundry room. \$64,900
Block Townhome With Addition - Rear addition and new kitchen and office space. Hardwood floors, granite and ceramic tiles. Close to Roosevelt Center.
SOLD
2 Bedroom Townhome - Corner lot tucked away from the street. New appliances. Oak hardwood flooring on both levels. Priced to sell at \$112,000
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Letters to the Editor

of a commercial nature in the Forest Preserve. The guidelines and Greenbelt City Code do not allow activities, events or classes of a commercial nature to take place in Greenbelt’s Forest Preserve. The FPAB motion (recommendation) was consistent with and supports the decision by City Solicitor Robert Manzi that AK and its fee-based classes and activities would be considered commercial.

The article also gave the impression that the FPAB is keeping children out of the Forest Preserve. Quite the contrary! An annual Pumpkin walk in the Preserve is an event geared completely toward children and has occurred for many years. Many local volunteers have contributed time and energy carrying out this fun and spooky activity. In addition, every month this year (2013) there have been events specifically focused on families and children participating in walks, nature sketching, nature journaling and talks on the flora and fauna of the Forest Preserve in honor of the 10th anniversary of the official city designation of Greenbelt’s Forest Preserve. Anyone at any time can hike through the city’s Forest Preserve using its trails. These events and activities were, and are, free of charge.

It is not the FPAB’s function or charge to advocate for, advise or counsel AK or any commercial enterprise (for profit or nonprofit) as to its business plan, mission statement or definition of fee-based classes and how they might “fit” into Greenbelt’s Forest Preserve or the City Code.

Bob Snyder,
FPAB Chair

Editor’s Note: The article, written by a student unfamiliar with city procedures, should have been better edited. Robert Snyder correctly states that the actions of the FPAB are advising recommendations.

Advisory Board System Broken

The December 5 News Review article, “Forest Preserve Worksession Becomes Very Contentious,” provides further evidence that the city’s advisory board system is broken. Greenbelt citizens should expect open government but the city website shows a bizarrely closed culture. The city website claims Forest Preserve meetings are held “monthly” but does not say where or when. Digging deeper, the website provides meeting minutes, but no minutes have been posted since 2011 and only three of 12 months meetings are available. Board members allegedly represent the community but the website does not even disclose their names – much less their expertise and motives for serving.

Undisclosed people meet at undisclosed times in undisclosed locations and make undisclosed decisions. Is it any wonder the result angers their neighbors?

If one wanted future generations of Greenbelters to neglect or even pave the green belt, one might start with an unaccountable advisory board discouraging a program that advocates public forest stewardship.

Johanna Goderre

Disappointing

We were disappointed to read of the recent decision of the Forest Preserve Advisory Board’s (FPAB) decision to ban the nonprofit Ancestral Knowledge from using the Greenbelt Forest Preserve lands for its education programs (“Forest Preserve Worksession Becomes Very Contentious,” Dec. 5, 2013).

The FPAB contends that, despite its nonprofit status and mission of supporting sustainability through experiential programs, Ancestral Knowledge is a commercial enterprise because it charges fees to cover its costs. This decision is hard to understand, because the Forest Preserve and Ancestral Knowledge share the mission of valuing and preserving the woodlands.

Our son has participated in Ancestral Knowledge’s Homeschool Naturalist Program for the last two years. We know well how thoughtful and informed the instructors are and we have seen how the program has taught my son and his classmates to appreciate the natural world through deep engagement with it. As experts attest, this engagement – more than abstract information – leads students to become conservationists as adults.

Ancestral Knowledge’s mission statement includes the following goals for its programs:

- Create a connection between the student and the natural environment
- Enrich the student intellectually, emotionally, and physically
- Instill a sense of responsibility and stewardship (caretaking) toward community and environment
- Impart skills that support the health and well-being of individuals, families, communities, ecosystems and future generations.

We believe these are laudable goals that should be embraced by the FPAB. We urge the FPAB to reconsider the decision to ban Ancestral Knowledge from the Greenbelt Forest Preserve. We encourage other Greenbelters who wish to ensure a continued dedication to sustaining the Forest Preserve to also contact the FPAB to express their opinions.

Bob and Cherie Walsh

Reasonable Involvements

As the spouse of a member of Greenbelt’s Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB), I have both desired – but also hesitated – to respond to the article in the December 5 News Review entitled “Forest Preserve Worksession Becomes Very Contentious.” Ultimately I have decided to make a couple of points in response to the article.

Greenbelt has a Forest Preserve; the purpose is to preserve this forested area. While education and enjoyment are permissible within certain constraints, it is not intended for those purposes. In reading this article I fear that some of the FPAB members are more concerned with these uses of the Forest Preserve than preservation.

Also, let us remember that the members of FPAB are volunteers. They have other responsibilities



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIS WITTER

This area behind Mowatt Methodist Church has been used for classes by Ancestral Knowledge.

outside the group, such as jobs, families and other community activities. While I do not object to individual members of the committee voluntarily assisting Ancestral Knowledge or a similar group, it would be an unreasonable demand to commit the entire committee to such a chore.

Matt Elliott

Defending Ancestral Knowledge Forest Use

As a lifelong Greenbelt resident, Ancestral Knowledge 501(c)3 board member and parent of children impacted by the city and Forest Preserve Advisory Board’s (FPAB) decision to ban children participating in our programming from entering the Forest Preserve, to put it lightly – I am very troubled and hope readers will be too.

Ancestral Knowledge, www.AncestralKnowledge.org, is a 501(c)3 educational nonprofit that teaches naturalist-based programs in the Md./D.C./Va. area. Our year-round programs consist of nature awareness games, plant/animal identification, nature discovery, tracking, native skills and natural history. In Greenbelt our programs have been located at Mowatt Church on Ridge Road, since 2010.

When we were contacted in October 2012 by the city to indicate that they were banning us because we charged program fees, I thought this must be a misunderstanding as the FPAB has previously noted us to be ‘non-commercial’ as shown under the introduction of Joe Murray (my brother, FPAB member and Ancestral Knowledge instructor) in FPAB minutes April 27, 2010. The city now claims they didn’t know we charged program fees (in line with similar nonprofit organizations such as private schools, YMCA, Chesapeake Foundation, etc.) and our fees make us a “commercial enterprise” which is prohibited under the city code. Note – I am told that there was prior discussion of our fees at meetings but I cannot confirm as the city, after multiple requests, has not provided meeting minutes dated later than mid-2011.

Their determination appears to ignore that the city code states “technical words and phrases

... as may have acquired a peculiar and appropriate meaning in law shall be construed and understood according to such meaning.” Under 8CFR 204.6, a “commercial enterprise” is defined as a “for-profit activity” and again in a recent Maryland court case a stipulative definition states that a “commercial enterprise” is a “for-profit entity that serves private interests.” The city lawyers disagree and say we are “commercial” because we charge fees but membership-based organizations such as the Cub Scouts who charge an annual \$100 membership fee are allowed access. This undocumented nuanced decision is troubling.

As a result of this determination, we were forced to move our year-round weekly Greenbelt Homeschool Naturalist programs out of Greenbelt. Fortunately for our summer day camps, the GHI board came to our rescue and enthusiastically welcomed us in utilizing their adjacent lands so that we could continue to hold our summer day camps at Mowatt Church.

Why the FPAB does not seem inclined to allow us to take the kids for hikes in the Forest Preserve, especially when the “Secondary objectives for the Forest preserve are public education about the preserves and their natural value” is beyond my comprehension.

Celia Craze, director of planning and city liaison to the FPAB, has repeatedly advised the FPAB that they could frame a discussion around how naturalist-type programs could be allowed in the FPAB and recommend changes to the code to the council. However, the FPAB majority has declined to have this conversation and instead after a year of sitting on our proposal, have chosen to simply ban our participants and reverse the finding published in their prior April 2010 minutes that stated we were “non-commercial.”

We are willing to work with the FPAB and the city to overcome any concerns but cannot comply with unwritten rules or anticipate arbitrary interpretations.

Our request for a permit application has been in abeyance

by the city for over 12 months. It is past time for the city to provide clarity on this topic or at the very least allow our permit request to proceed while the city develops appropriate policies to cover any concerns.

The future of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve and other natural areas depends on each of us teaching our children to value and cherish natural areas, so that they are motivated to protect them for the future generations. With this in mind, I am surprised at the shortsightedness of the FPAB’s recommendation to the council. I can only hope the council will take a more thoughtful approach.

Jonathan Murray
Chair, Ancestral Knowledge

Dissenting FPAB Forest Use View

I would like to thank the News Review and reporter Yevgeniy Trapeznikov for the article on page 9 of last week’s edition: “Forest Preserve Worksession Becomes Very Contentious.” This is the first time citizens of Greenbelt have been widely informed of what I consider Greenbelt’s dirty little secret. Nearly a year ago, city staff expelled from the preserve Ancestral Knowledge (AK), a nonprofit educational organization that teaches environmental skills to middle-school-age children. AK is a 501(c)3 educational nonprofit. Yet the city called it a “business” and banned its children from the woods. There has been no due process and no opportunity to appeal, as city staff refuses to consider a subsequent request by AK for a permit.

Greenbelt’s Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB) added yet another insult by recommending 5-3-1 in October to make the expulsion permanent. Before voting, the board flatly rejected a request by AK Chairman Jonathan Murray to speak. Like the city staff, the FPAB also called AK a “business.” I doubt anyone on city staff or on the FPAB would call the Anacostia Watershed Society, the Sierra Club Foundation or the Greenbelt Nursery School a business.

My hope is that the council will intervene, take this issue out of the hands of unelected city staff and the FPAB and apply the Forest Preserve Guidelines section on “Activities and Special Events.” A prudent application of the guidelines would not only allow the AK children back into the woods, it would also keep the preserve open to students of other nonprofit educational institutions.

Willis Witter
FPAB Member

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